



Firbank School's Out

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspector	(Kate) Kathryn, Jane Ryder
Setting Address	Firbank County Primary School, Grasmere Road, Royton, OLDHAM, Greater Manchester, OL2 6SJ
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Registered person	Joyce Turner
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Firbank Schools Out has been registered since 2000 and is one of four out of school settings managed by Joyce Turner, a private provider. It is located in Firbank County Primary School in Royton and children access two rooms and the school hall. There is a safe and secure outdoor play area. A maximum of 32 children under eight years may attend at any one time and there is currently an average of 37 children attending the weekly sessions including children over the age of eight years.

During term time the club opens from 07.30 to 09.00 and 15.15 to 17.30 and places are for pupils of the school. During the holiday periods it opens from 07.30 to 17.30

and places are open to the local community.

There are three members of staff working in the club during term time and four work during the holiday periods. More than half of the staff have relevant child care qualifications. The club has Investors in Children status, a Quality Assurance Scheme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good personal health and hygiene issues through the well established daily routines. They know, for example, that washing their hands thoroughly with soap before snack prevents germs spreading, such as stomach upsets. Children have been involved in a number of activities concentrating on healthy food pyramids which has given them a secure knowledge about the kind of food which supports a healthy life style. They speak with confidence about obesity and diabetes being the long term consequence of eating excess junk food. Detailed written records ensure that staff respond appropriately to individual health needs. However, parental consent for staff to seek emergency medical treatment is not obtained and this compromises children's health.

Children enjoy regular opportunities for physical exercise. They have continuous access to the outdoor area and use a variety of equipment, for example, balls, bats and skipping ropes. They also benefit from walks in an adjacent wooded area.

The club has achieved a healthy eating award through the National Health Service (NHS) and provide children with extremely healthy snacks. Children especially enjoy the appetising fruit and vegetable platter and make choices about whether they would like a sandwich or separate filling and bread. They help themselves to drinks throughout the session, particularly after strenuous physical activity such as football. Clear procedures are in place to ensure there are good standards of hygiene related to food preparation, although not all members of staff responsible for food preparation have up to date food hygiene certificates. Snack times are social events where children choose who they want to sit with at tables attractively covered with fruit print table cloths.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a child centred play environment which is well maintained, safe and secure. It provides adequate space to enable children to play and eat in comfort. Appropriate organisation of the play space allows children to move freely and safely between the two designated areas. Children's sense of belonging and self-esteem is promoted through the many wall displays of their art work. Weekly risk assessments are carried out and as a result, potential hazards are identified and effectively minimised. Fire drills are carried out with the children at regular intervals

and ensure safe evacuation of the building. Children are strongly aware not to cross the invisible line on the corridor and as a consequence play in safety. The external door to the play areas is kept locked ensuring children play safely indoors. However, the practice of leaving it unlocked when some children play out compromises both children's and staff's safety.

Different activities are provided within two play areas and children confidently engage in play of their own choice. They benefit from a good selection of resources and equipment which reflects their age and interests. Children are very familiar with where things are kept which encourages them to play independently. Play materials are regularly washed, resulting in clean, hygienic toys for children to play with.

Staff are clear about their role and responsibilities with regard to child protection and they safeguard children's welfare appropriately. Most of the staff have attended training and the manager has booked training dates to update her knowledge. The setting's written policy is accessible to parents and relevant written guidance and contact telephone numbers are in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Practitioners use a topic cycle to plan an interesting range of activities that meet children's developmental stage and that are fun. This results in children who are happy, relaxed and approach the play activities with lots of enthusiasm. Activity evaluation sheets completed by the children are to be introduced shortly and will ensure that staff continue to provide play which reflects children's interests and enjoyment.

Practitioners interact positively with the children, giving high levels of care and attention. For example, helping children to design and model figures out of clay. Children spend their time purposefully and take part in a wide range of activities, such as ball games, board games, construction, cars and garage, clay modelling and drawing.

Children are able to make independent choices and they demonstrate confidence and familiarity within the setting. This ensures they are able to respond to their own needs and wishes, for example, helping themselves to a drink from the tray and choosing different resources from the toy cupboards.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have good opportunities to develop their awareness about the diversity in our society through a variety of activities. For example, they explore culture through the celebration of festivals such as Chinese New Year and make lanterns and dragons to reflect the topic. They have access to some good anti discriminatory toys and posters whilst others are borrowed from the toy library to support a theme. Staff

treat children with equal concern and respect their decisions about what they want to play with. This establishes a sense of security and fosters trusting relationships. Children with additional needs are cared for appropriately and sensitively in consultation with parents and other relevant professionals.

Children are well behaved and polite in response to the expectations of practitioners. They clearly understand the boundaries and staff have high expectations of them. Children have been consulted about club rules, such as being kind and polite, taking pride in their work and helping younger children. Children are learning to act responsibly. For example, they tidy away toys and help to wash the snack plates. The use of sticker charts positively reinforces good behaviour and children look forward to receiving a small prize when they have achieved ten stickers.

Practitioners promote effective partnerships with parents. There is an abundance of information displayed which ensures parents have a clear insight into the clubs practices. For example, regular newsletters, leaflet and notice boards, photographs of members of staff and children engaged in a variety of activities. Parents have access to the club policies and procedures which clearly outline the expectations of the group. The setting aims to develop the use of parent questionnaires and parent evenings in the future to strengthen their partnership with parents policy.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The play areas are welcoming and organised to help children be independent. Children benefit from the active involvement of the practitioners in the activities which enhances their enjoyment and sense of achievement. Children's safety and welfare is effectively protected due to the vetting procedures which all staff submit to. Staff training is valued as a means to further develop the provision and members of staff attend training regularly. The setting has used a self evaluation tool well to review working practices and as a result have identified several areas for future development.

Documentation is maintained in good order to promote children's welfare. Policies and procedures work in practice to ensure there are positive outcomes for children. The registration method is appropriate and clearly details the children present and the time that they leave. They follow clear procedures for notifying Ofsted about any significant changes, such as a change of manager.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection the setting was required to keep a record showing children's hours of attendance, allocate a key worker to every child and make sure that parents have access to child protection information. The registration system clearly shows children's arrival and departure times. All children belong to a group

and key worker and parents have easy access to the child protection statement. These measures have appropriately addressed the recommendations made and have improved children's health and safety and parental access to the clubs policy and procedure file.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report since registration. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that members of staff responsible for the preparation and handling of food are fully aware of, and comply with, regulations relating to food safety and hygiene
- obtain written parental permission to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk